

12 September 2008

Chem-Bio News

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2. FATAH LEADER: NEW INTIFADA MORE HORRIFIC: *"The next intifada will not be one of stones, or even suicide bombers -- it will be one of missiles and possibly even chemical weapons," Fatah leader Hussam Khader said in an interview with Israel's Haaretz newspaper several days after being released from an Israeli prison after six years for a leadership role in the second intifada."*

3. ELBARADEI TO LEAVE IAEA IN 2009: MEMO: *"IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Director General Mohamed ElBaradei will not stand for re-election as head of the UN nuclear watchdog when his contract expires next year, an agency document revealed Wednesday."*

4. CHERTOFF CITES BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AS HIS BIGGEST WORRY: *"But he said he is most concerned about a weapon of mass destruction being used by terrorists in the United States, although he does not believe such a threat is imminent."*

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6. CROSS-CONTAMINATION OF CLINICAL SPECIMENS WITH BACILLUS ANTHRACIS DURING A LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TEST --- IDAHO, 2006: *"The two reports resulted briefly in alerts to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and precautionary treatment of one of the patients for anthrax."*

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

FORMER BIOWEAPONS WORKERS REUNITE AT FORT DETRICK

WTOPnews.com

September 7, 2008

"Every two or three years since 1992, the personnel of Fort Detrick's old biological warfare program have held a reunion, meeting on the post itself since 1994.

Saturday, more than 100 gathered in the Community Activities Center, for what some said may be the last time."

"Saturday, interns from Fort Detrick's public affairs office made their way through the room circulating a stack of old pictures, recently discovered in the basement of the post's headquarters building, asking people in the room to provide details about what they showed.

Some showed the 8-ball, the old aerosol testing chamber, under construction, while another was labeled "Black Maria" -- the name of the post's first biowarfare lab building."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=25&sid=1473660>

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FATAH LEADER: NEW INTIFADA MORE HORRIFIC

UPI.com

September 7, 2008

"The next intifada will not be one of stones, or even suicide bombers -- it will be one of missiles and possibly even chemical weapons," Fatah leader Hussam Khader said in an interview with Israel's Haaretz newspaper several days after being released from an Israeli prison after six years for a leadership role in the second intifada."

The full article can be found at: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/09/07/Fatah_leader_New_intifada_more_horrific/UPI-29531220815399/

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ELBARADEI TO LEAVE IAEA IN 2009: MEMO

SpaceWar.com

September 10, 2008

"IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Director General Mohamed ElBaradei will not stand for re-election as head of the UN nuclear watchdog when his contract expires next year, an agency document revealed Wednesday.

ElBaradei, who has served three terms as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency since 1997, "is not available for a further term of office," said the memo to the board of governors, a copy of which was obtained by AFP.

The document, dated September 5, has been circulated to IAEA governors.

The Egyptian diplomat's current term expires on November 30, 2009."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/080910125648.x8ymrs2q.html>

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CHERTOFF CITES BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS AS HIS BIGGEST WORRY

By Chris Stohm

CongressDaily on Government Executive.com

September 11, 2008

"On the day before the seventh anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said his biggest worry was a biological outbreak.

"I don't think there is any doubt that we are safer today than we were seven years ago," Chertoff said during a speech on confronting threats to the country.

But he said he is most concerned about a weapon of mass destruction being used by terrorists in the United States, although he does not believe such a threat is imminent.

Specifically, he cited the threat from biological agents as his biggest worry.

A Homeland Security spokeswoman later clarified that Chertoff was talking about the threat of terrorists using a biological agent, such as anthrax, in an attack and the idea that somebody could be infected with an agent -- whether he or she knows it or not -- and come into contact with others.

Homeland Security came under criticism last summer for letting a man cross into the United States from Canada with what was then believed to be an extensively drug-resistant form of tuberculosis."

The full article can be found at: http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=40936&dcn=todaysnews

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U.S. SCANS INCOMING AIR CARGO

By Mimi Hall

USAToday

September 11, 2008

"The Homeland Security Department will put all incoming air cargo through radiation detectors at the nation's airports to try to prevent terrorists from smuggling radioactive bombs into the U.S.

The new initiative aims to close what the 9/11 Commission's final report called a major security vulnerability — cargo on airplanes as a potential avenue for terrorism. Any cargo shipped on passenger planes will also be scanned."

The full article can be found at: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-09-10-nuke_N.htm?csp=34

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CROSS-CONTAMINATION OF CLINICAL SPECIMENS WITH BACILLUS ANTHRACIS DURING A LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TEST --- IDAHO, 2006

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

September 12, 2008

"On July 18, 2006, the Utah Department of Health notified epidemiologists at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare that *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent for anthrax, had been isolated from a patient. On the same day, the Idaho epidemiologists were notified by the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories of a specimen from a second patient received for anthrax testing. The two reports resulted briefly in alerts to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and precautionary treatment of one of the patients for anthrax. Subsequent investigation revealed that, during July 2006, the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories had been conducting a sentinel laboratory proficiency testing exercise among Idaho's hospital laboratories. The exercise included specimens with the Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*, a nonvirulent strain. Subsequent laboratory testing of the two patient isolates detected the Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*; neither patient had signs or symptoms consistent with *B. anthracis* infection. Further investigation revealed that the Idaho hospital laboratories that tested the two specimens had been conducting the laboratory proficiency testing exercise simultaneously, but the Idaho epidemiologists were not aware of the exercise. The two specimens had become cross-contaminated with *B. anthracis* in the laboratories. The findings in this report underscore the need to follow proper laboratory practices to minimize cross-contamination. In addition, to guard against false reports of anthrax, public health epidemiologists who monitor reportable diseases should be notified of upcoming proficiency testing of high-priority bioterrorism agents."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5736a3.htm>

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RUSSIAN SITE TO ELIMINATE SARIN, SOMAN NERVE AGENTS

Global Security Newswire

September 12, 2008

"Russia plans in March 2009 to begin disposal of the nerve agents sarin and soman at its Maradykovsky facility."

"The facility first destroyed 4,394 tons of V-gases, eliminating more than half of its chemical-weapon holdings."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_11.html

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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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